

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A power toothbrush, comprising:

a brushhead assembly, the brushhead assembly including a mounting shaft on which is positioned a brush bristle unit for brushing teeth and a force conversion assembly adapted and arranged to convert a driving force into a movement of the mounting shaft to move the bristle unit ~~in an oscillating manner~~ to accomplish cleansing of the teeth, wherein the force conversion assembly comprises a combination of a spring assembly which is responsive to a driving force to move the mounting shaft, and a carrier assembly which engages the receiving portion of the handle;

a handle to which the brushhead assembly is removably attached, the handle having a fixed receiving portion, which includes an upper hollow portion into which a lower part of the force conversion assembly fits; and

an attachment system which includes a first connection arrangement comprising a part on the hollow portion of the fixed receiving portion and a corresponding mating part on the force conversion assembly for positively preventing rotational movement of the brushhead assembly relative to the handle; wherein the force conversion assembly further includes at least one engaging member which, when the brushhead assembly is operatively positioned in the receiving portion, extends at least partially into an opening in the receiving portion of the handle, which positively prevents translational movement of the brushhead assembly relative to the handle during operation of the toothbrush, wherein the attachment system is configured and arranged such that the brushhead assembly is removed from the handle or inserted into the handle linearly, directly toward and away from the handle, without rotation of the brushhead assembly being necessary to tighten the brushhead assembly onto the handle or loosen it therefrom.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The power toothbrush of claim 2 1, wherein the spring assembly/carrier assembly combination includes two opposing spring finger members which depend downwardly from an upper edge thereof, mating securely with two associated openings

in the receiving portion to prevent translational movement of the brushhead assembly relative to the handle.

4. (previously presented) The power toothbrush of claim 3, wherein each spring finger member includes an ear portion at a lower end thereof which fits into its associated opening in the receiving portion.

5. (previously presented) The power toothbrush of claim 4, wherein the brushhead assembly further includes a housing portion and wherein the attachment system includes a disengaging member mounted in the housing and movable such that it acts against the engaging member present in the opening, forcing it out of the opening, so that the brushhead assembly can be readily moved away from the receiving portion.

6. (previously presented) The power toothbrush of claim 1, wherein the first connection arrangement includes an opening in a wall portion of the force conversion combination, adapted to mate snugly with a rib portion on an internal surface of the receiving portion of the handle.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) The power toothbrush of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the carrier assembly includes a portion thereof adapted to carry a fluid pump for moving fluid from a reservoir to the bristle unit.

9. (currently amended) The power toothbrush of claim ~~7~~ 1, wherein the first and second connection arrangements approximately oppose each other around the peripheries of the receiving portion and the force conversion assembly.

10. (currently amended) A power toothbrush, comprising:
a brushhead assembly;

a handle to which the brushhead assembly is removably attached, the handle having a

fixed receiving portion, the brushhead assembly including a force coupling assembly adapted and arranged to couple a driving force produced by a driver portion of the power toothbrush to a mounting shaft on which a set of bristles is mounted, wherein the fixed receiving portion includes an upper hollow portion into which a lower portion of the force coupling assembly fits; and

a brushhead attachment system, wherein the force coupling assembly includes a slot therein into which a rib member on an internal surface of the hollow portion of the fixed receiving portion of the handle snugly fits to positively prevent rotational movement of the brushhead assembly relative to the handle and wherein the force coupling assembly includes at least one engaging member which, when the brushhead assembly is operatively positioned in the receiving portion of the handle, extends at least partially into an opening in the receiving portion, to positively prevent translational movement of the brushhead assembly relative to the handle during operation of the toothbrush, wherein the engaging member includes a part at a lower end thereof which fits into said opening in the receiving portion, and wherein the brushhead assembly further includes a housing portion therefor, the attachment system including a disengaging member mounted in said housing portion and moveable such that it is actionable by a user against the engaging member part present in the opening, forcing it out of the opening, so that the brushhead assembly can be readily moved away from the receiving portion.

11. (previously presented) The power toothbrush of claim 10, wherein the attachment system is configured and arranged to permit the brushhead assembly to be removed from the handle or inserted into the handle in a linear movement thereof, without rotation of the brushhead assembly.

12. (cancelled)